



# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR  
HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY      SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 52

## ONE YEAR OLD

Washington, March 30.--With this issue of the Weekly News Letter the first year of its existence has been completed. The inauguration of this service by the American Federation of Labor has been of inestimable value to the labor press of the country. During the year about twenty new labor papers have been established, and in a large number of cities labor columns have been opened in the daily press, the matter in the News Letter being copiously printed. The News Letter is sent to all parts of the civilized world, and is generously used by foreign labor publications. As a direct result of the issuance of the News Letter several foreign countries have inaugurated a like service. With complete co-operation with the international unions, so far as news is concerned, the News Letter will become more valuable in the future. In fact, it is difficult at the present time, with the present size of the letter, to include all of the important labor news that reaches headquarters. From a publicity standpoint the News Letter has achieved remarkable success and its development has been a matter of congratulation.

## HEBREW TRADES MEETING

Philadelphia, March 30.--President Gompers addressed a large meeting here recently under the auspices of the United Hebrew Trades. During his address urging organization in the clothing trades he referred to the minimum wage question, now occupying the attention of England and the great coal miners' strike. President Gompers declared he was in favor of a minimum wage, but was not entirely satisfied that its regulation by law would produce results of lasting benefit to labor. "The minimum wage should be gained and maintained by the organizations of labor. If a minimum wage law for workmen is enacted by legislative means, by the same token it may transpire that a law will be enacted compelling men to work for the minimum wage, and when it becomes lawful to force men to work that means slavery. We want a minimum wage established by the solidarity of the workmen themselves rather than by statute."

## FORWARD MOVEMENT FOR DALLAS

Dallas, Tex., March 30.--The Central Labor Council of this city has decided to inaugurate a union labor forward movement similar to that contemplated by Minneapolis and St. Paul. Other cities are also contemplating such a move during the early part of the year.

## COURT SUSTAINS McNULTY

Decision in Electrical Workers' Controversy Sustains Position Taken by the American Federation of Labor.

Washington, March 30.--After nearly four years of internecine conflict the issues in the controversy within the ranks of the electrical workers of the country have been determined by the courts in Cleveland, O. At the Denver (1908) convention of the American Federation of Labor two sets of delegates, claiming to represent the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, presented credentials. The contention was made by the delegation headed by McNulty that the delegation headed by Reid represented a seceding faction of the Electrical Workers, and a special committee was appointed to investigate. The committee, after holding numerous hearings, recommended the seating of the McNulty delegation, and further recommended that a representative trade unionist be appointed by President Gompers for the purpose of making an effort to reunite the organization. The recommendations of the committee were concurred in, and as a result an agreement was reached and signed by both factions and placed before the convention prior to its adjournment. When it came to carrying out the provisions of the agreement, however, the Reid faction repudiated it in toto. Following the repudiation the matter came before the executive council. The council employed every means at its command to effect a settlement, but the representatives of the Reid faction refused to accept any offer made save complete surrender by McNulty. The executive council, after all its efforts had failed to effect a settlement, officially recognized McNulty as the official head of the legitimate organization of electrical workers. The officials of the recognized organization contended that the convention held in St. Louis, which was called by the Reid followers, and which organized the secession movement, was called in defiance of the laws of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. At the inception of the controversy the funds of the organization, amounting to nearly \$100,000, were tied up by injunction secured by the Reid faction, and suits instituted against the regular organization. Numerous attempts were made by McNulty to bring the cases to trial, but he was unable to do so until recently. At the trial the issues were vigorously contested, and at its close a decision was rendered which clearly and specifically sustains the organization of which McNulty is president, and which, in turn, is recognized by the American Federation of Labor. While the Reid faction has the right of appeal it is not thought that it will be taken advantage of. The decision is so clear that it is highly improbable that any higher court will reverse it. In cases of this character decisions are reached based on the organic law of the organization involved, and the decision just rendered is in strict conformity with the constitution of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. In all decisions rendered by the courts in similar cases there has been no deviation from the rule applied in this case. Now that the issues have been determined by the courts it is hoped and believed that the electrical workers belonging to the Reid faction will accept the decision and conform thereto, and assist in reuniting the two factions that one comprehensive and effective organization of electrical workers shall be maintained for the protection of the men employed in the electrical trade.

## PAPER HANGERS WIN

Springfield, O., March 30.--The Paper Hangers, after being on strike less than two weeks, have reached an amicable adjustment with practically all of the firms, and are back at work again.

## OHIO'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Columbus, O., March 30.--The Labor Committee of the constitutional convention has agreed to report the following amendments on the subject of fixing and regulating the hours of work and other conditions of employment: "Laws may be passed fixing and regulating the hours of labor, establishing a minimum wage and providing for the comfort, health, safety and general welfare of all employees, and other provisions of the constitution shall not impair or limit this power. Not to exceed eight hours shall constitute a day's work and not to exceed 48 hours a week's work on the construction, replacement, repair, maintenance and operation of all public works, buildings, plants, machinery at which laborers, workmen and mechanics are employed, carried on or aided by the state or any political sub-division thereof, whether done by contract or otherwise, except in cases of extraordinary emergency." The judiciary committee has favorably reported the following: "The general assembly shall have full power to provide for the conservation of the mineral resources of the state, both as to the methods of mining and operation, and the general assembly shall provide for the regulation of the weighing and measuring of coal." Another proposition favorably reported permits the appointment of women as factory inspectors, notaries, members of labor boards and boards of charity and as superintendents of state or county institutions where the care of women and children is involved.

## TO INTRODUCE ANTI-SPEEDING BILL

Washington, March 30.--To make effective the report submitted to the house of representatives by the labor committee, opposing the introduction of the Taylor and other similar systems in the government works Congressman Pepper of Iowa is considering the introduction of a bill to prohibit the use of such systems of speeding up labor in all departments of the government. Mr. Pepper stated that as congress had already legislated in favor of the eight-hour day in the government departments, he could see no good reason why it should not protect laboring men from systems which overworked them and injured their health. Mr. Pepper was the author of the resolution adopted by the house under which the investigation of the Taylor and kindred systems was made by the labor committee, of which W. B. Wilson, the coal miner, is chairman.

## RAILROAD STRIKERS APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Washington, March 30.--The international officers of the trades involved in the Illinois Central and Harriman lines strike have issued an appeal for funds. This appeal has been approved by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. The hope is expressed that the men who are working in the construction and repair departments of other railroads will donate a day's pay per month in order that the fight may be continued. Other organizations are also asked to give as liberally as possible. Some 30,000 men are involved. The physical condition of the struck roads, it is claimed, is in bad shape and rapidly getting worse. Arrangements have been made to equitably distribute the donations. All remittances are to be sent to William F. Kramer, 570 Monon Building, Chicago, Ill.

## A FLATTERING CONDITION

Washington, March 30.--Secretary-Treasurer J. W. Hays of the International Typographical union has just forwarded to headquarters a document showing the tremendous benefits conferred upon the members of that organization by the international union. Using the total membership of the unions reporting increased scales of wages as a basis for calculation it reveals that during the past year the wages of affected members have increased \$69,253.84 per week, or \$3,601,714.48 for the year. Owing to the fact that the collection of the international union on the old-age pension assessment is based upon the percentage system, the international union is in possession of the exact earnings of each of its members. During 1911, the earnings per member reached the high total of \$974.13 for the year. This is probably the highest average maintained by any labor organization in the world whose members are employed in any mechanical industry. The Typographical union is a high-due organization and its prosperity and effectiveness is largely the result of the fact that its members are not parsimonious in maintaining a strong financial condition.

## PACIFIC COAST BRICKLAYERS ANXIOUS

San Francisco, March 30.--The officials of the Bricklayers' local union have called a meeting of representatives, appointed by the Building Trades council, the San Francisco Labor council, and the California State Federation of Labor, together with representatives of the Bricklayers' union, to arrange a campaign of publicity extending throughout the country, in an effort to create sentiment favorable to the affiliation of the Bricklayers with the American Federation of Labor.

## J. HAVELOCK WILSON COMING

Washington, March 30.--J. Havelock Wilson, noted leader of the successful seamen's strike of Great Britain, has communicated to the Sailors' Union of the Pacific that he has been unavoidably detained in Australia, but expects to reach San Francisco early in April. The Sailors' Union of the Pacific is preparing to give him a hearty reception.

## GET INCREASE IN WAGES

San Francisco, March 30.--The Gas and Water Workers' union has entered into an agreement with the Pacific Gas and Electric company for a period of one year, the new agreement calling for an increase in wages for certain classes of labor and affects the workers in San Francisco central and northern California.

## TILE LAYERS WIN STRIKE

Minneapolis, March 30.--The tile layers, after a strike lasting one week, have returned to work, their full demands having been conceded by the employers.

New unions of tailors have been formed in New York city, Vallejo, Cal., New Haven, Conn., and Flint, Mich.

## BRITISH COAL STRIKE NEARING CLOSE

Washington, March 30.--The British coal owners have finally determined to accept the minimum wage bill. Ballots have been forwarded to all of the miners' local unions containing the following: "Are you in favor of resuming work pending the settlement of the minimum rates of wages in the various grades by the district boards to be appointed under the coal mines minimum wage act?" Undoubtedly Parliament will pass the minimum wage law, but it will not carry with it a specific wage, only endorsing the principal thereof. The miners and operators in accepting this principle will now undoubtedly conform to it by putting into effect, through the district councils of the miners a minimum wage law which will be satisfactory to all concerned.

## COAL MINERS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE

Washington, March 30.--From present indications there will be a general suspension of coal mining in both the anthracite and bituminous coal fields. Efforts to reach a amicable adjustment of the differences between the miners and the operators have thus far failed. President Taft has instructed Charles P. Neill, Commissioner of Labor, to look into the situation and use his influence to avert a strike, and he is now actively engaged in an effort to bring the operators and miners together. In some parts of the anthracite fields preparations are in progress to employ strike breakers, but it is not thought that this will be generally done. A bill has been introduced in congress proposing the creation of a commission to investigate the causes of mining labor troubles. This, however will have no effect upon the present situation.

## FASTEST NAVAL VESSEL Afloat

Washington, March 30.--The fastest battleship in the American navy, and undoubtedly in the world, is the government-built battleship Florida, which made 22.54 knots on her standardization trial over the Rockland, Me., course. This is a high tribute to the government's navy yard at Brooklyn, and demonstrates that the government works are capable of producing faster vessels than private ship yards.

## BLOW AT TAYLOR SYSTEM

Washington, March 30.--Congressman Pepper of Iowa has introduced a bill providing a \$500 fine for any officer, manager, superintendent, or foreman who holds a stop-watch on any employee during working hours, and provides means whereby redress can be obtained. This bill, of course will only cover institutions under the control of the government.

## UNION MAN GETS POSITION

Washington, March 30.--James J. Murphy, Ex-President of Typographical union No. 6, New York City, has been appointed supervising factory inspector, first district, New York City, by the New York state department of labor. Mr. Murphy is well known throughout labor circles and is recognized as a man of ability.

## EFFICIENCY SYSTEM ONEROUS

London, March 30.--Many employers are endeavoring to inaugurate the so-called efficiency system, similar to that being advocated by employers in America. A report comes from one firm of engineers and boilermakers that a system of piecework was adopted with so many hours for certain jobs and prices for such work. One job in particular, on the adoption of the system referred to, occupied the time of four boilermakers, sixteen laborers and two boilermaker's apprentices. At the end of nine months eight laborers and two apprentices were taken off this particular job and the number of hours allowed was reduced from nineteen to fifteen. This scheme is creating dissatisfaction, and if continued will no doubt cause complications that will end in a strike, as the men are being driven beyond the limit of physical endurance.

## BAKERS WANT INCREASE

London, March 30.--If the bakers at Nottingham are not granted a minimum wage of 30s for qualified men, 38s for foremen, and from 16s to 24s for juniors, they threaten to come out on strike immediately. Strike notices have been handed in, and to the credit of the organization many of the master bakers have already conceded the demand.

## RECOMMEND INCREASE

London, March 30.--The Blackburn Corporation Tramways committee has recommended the town council to advance the wages of all drivers, conductors and shodmen 1d per hour. It is said that the men have not applied for the increase, but that the committee, realizing the unrest among this class of labor in other places, is endeavoring to avoid future complications and trouble.

## IMMIGRATION STATISTICS

Washington, March 30.--The bureau of immigration and naturalization has just issued its December, 1911, immigration bulletin. The number of immigrants admitted during that month was 61,626, the largest number coming from Southern Italy, being 10,452. The next largest number admitted were Hebrew, 8,321; Polish, 6,313; German, 4,587; Slovak, 3,061; English, 2,791; Magyar, 2,473. The balance were made up of thirty-one other nationalities. The total number of immigrants admitted to this country since 1820 aggregates 28,772,880.

## UNION AND OPEN SHOP THE ISSUE

Hartford, Conn., March 30.--An unique issue is presented in the campaign now in progress for election of city officers. While the platforms of the opposing forces are silent in reference to the real issue, the candidates have been selected with a view single to their attitude on the union and open shop. Every labor union in the city is exercising diligence and enthusiasm in the advocacy of the candidates who openly declare themselves in favor of the union shop.

The composition roofers in Newark, N. J. secured an advance of 25 cents per day after two weeks strike.



## INSPECTORS INVESTIGATE CATASTROPHE

San Antonio, Tex., March 30.--The Southern Pacific engine explosion which caused the death of twenty-eight and the injury of more than forty persons was caused by excessive steam pressure, according to federal and state officials who have investigated the disaster. Chief Boiler Inspector John F. Ensign of the interstate commerce commission took part in the investigation. Southern Pacific employees testified that a workman had screwed down the pop-valves just previous to the explosion and that the oil burners had been extinguished shortly before the explosion and then re-lighted. All theories regarding dynamite or explosive forces other than steam were considered untenable. The shop men on this road are on strike and the explosion is one of the results of the employment of incompetent workmen.

## INQUIRY PROPOSED

Washington, March 30.--A resolution proposing the creation of a special committee of five members of the house to investigate an alleged combination of coal dealers and coal mine operators at the head of Lake Superior in Minnesota and Wisconsin has been introduced by Congressman Steenerson of Minnesota. The resolution provides for an inquiry into charges of combination of dealers and operators, operating in violation of the anti-trust law, declining to supply coal to any municipality attempting to deal in coal for accommodation of the public and refusing to supply coal except to regular retail dealers, and declining to supply to any consumer either in carload lots or otherwise.

## TO VOTE ON INCREASE

Washington, March 30.--It is stated by members of the railroad organizations that a circular letter has been authorized and sent out by the Southern Association of the Order of Railway Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors, proposing to the membership of these two organizations a referendum vote on a demand for a 15 per cent increase in wages on the thirteen railroads south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers. It is understood that this vote is to be taken during the early part of April, the vote to be canvassed in this city, and, if favorable to the increase, the demands will be presented immediately.

## PROPOSES DEPORTATION

Washington, March 30.--The deportation of aliens who have been admitted into America and who conspire for the overthrow of any government recognized by the United States is proposed in an amendment which Senator Root of New York has offered to the immigration bill, now pending in the senate. The amendment is aimed chiefly at the heads of the Mexican juntas that are said to be plotting the Mexican revolution in San Antonio and El Paso, Texas.

At Readville, Mass., since May 1910, the wages of the mechanical departments of the Southern railroad have been increased 5½ cents per hour.

## UNREST AMONG RAILWAY MEN

London, March 30.--Considerable dissatisfaction was felt with the settlement reached during the recent railway men's strike, and that feeling still exists. Several of the railway companies have been forced to give slight advances to certain underpaid men in their employ, owing to the intense feeling existing. The coal strike has had the effect of still further intensifying the situation, and a condition of affairs is now present that is not at all gratifying. While there has been no steps taken toward a cessation of work on account of the coal miners' strike, there is a very warm feeling among the railway men toward the coal miners in their struggle.

## WEAVERS' WAGES INCREASED

London, March 30.--The Lancashire weavers, after many futile efforts, have finally secured from the employers an advance in wages of five per cent, to take effect the coming July. The total amount of the wage advance amounts in the aggregate to £65,000 per year.

## "SWEATING" IN MILLS

London, March 30.--Ben Turner, fraternal delegate from the British Trades Congress to the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and also chairman of the National Labor Party, as well as president of the General Union of Weavers and Textile Workers, states that "sweating is rampant in the worsted mills and rag warehouses, the linen factories and many of the woolen mills." The general union has been fighting this condition of affairs for many years, and it is stated that the organization is making good progress towards eliminating the sweating in the weaving trade.

## THEATRICAL STRIKE

London, March 30.--Sir Herbert Tree, the manager of His Majesty's theater, recently gave notice to seven employees, the officials of the Stage Hands' union, that they must decide between remaining members of their trade union and continuing in his service. The employees decided to stick to their union and consequently were compelled to leave their positions. Then the Theatrical Employees' Association called out all the other employees. Following this a meeting of the Employees' Association was held, under the chairmanship of C. W. Bowerman, M. P., and a resolution was passed demanding a minimum wage of 2s 6d per performance at all West End theaters and also declaring that increases in pay should be given to all sections of employees at all places of amusement in the Metropolitan area.

## LOCKOUT AND STRIKE

London, March 30.--No settlement has yet been arrived at in regard to the lockout of two packing case makers at a firm of manufacturers in Whitecross street, and a strike of the other employees of the firm has led to a lockout in the whole trade in London, affecting 2,000 men. This is another case of victimizing union officials.



## MASS OF DATA SECURED

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Washington, March 30.--An enormous amount of data was secured by Charles P. Neill, United States Commissioner of Labor, during his recent visit at Lawrence, Mass., where he went to investigate the strike in the textile mills. Mr. Neill also had a number of assistants assisting him during his investigation, and it is expected that the report will be compiled and ready for publication in the not distant future. It is stated that the investigation was carried on in a systematic and quiet way, and that the report will bring to light many facts which have heretofore been hidden.

## SENDS DOCTOR TO ALASKA

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Washington, March 30.--Reports of health conditions in Alaska have caused Secretary MacVeigh to order two inspectors of the public health service to that territory to conduct a campaign in sanitation and hygiene. It is reported to the Washington authorities that 40% of the natives of Alaska are afflicted with tuberculosis. Headquarters will be established at Juneau, and will co-operate with the bureau of education in an effort to stamp out the disease.

## FOREIGNERS RUSHING TO EUROPE

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Washington, March 30.--It is stated by those who are in a position to know that unprecedented numbers of foreigners are taking bookings from Chicago for their native country. It is said that all reservations which were allowed western agents have been filled for weeks ahead. One agent stated that the rush is unusual for this time of year, and attributed it principally to labor problems.

## CONSUMERS' LEAGUE

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Washington, March 30.--There is in this city an active Consumers' League that is doing things. Only recently a second exhibition of goods manufactured under sweatshop conditions was held. Owing to the fact that it created intense interest the exposition was continued several days longer than at first intended. As a educational feature it is par excellence.

## RAIL TO BE TESTED

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Washington, March 30.--The New York Central railroad has accepted the offer of the United States government to conduct a scientific test along with the investigation of the derailling of the Twentieth Century Limited on the Hudson division recently, and the broken rail has been sent to Washington for analysis by the bureau of standards of the bureau of commerce and labor.

## FAVORS MAHER'S BILL

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Washington, March 30.--The bill introduced by Congress/James P. Maher of New York, one of the labor group, a union hatter, providing for the protection of the union label, has been endorsed by the Central Labor union of this city.

## ILLINOIS CENTRAL STRIKE

Washington, March 30.--The Chicago Record Herald is authority for the statement that weakness in the Illinois Central stock is continuing as a distinctive feature of the market, and excites much comment. There is a report that the dividends are to be cut, but this could not be verified, although the recent record of earnings by the Illinois Central suggests a change in the dividend policy. During the first seven months of this fiscal year the operating income of the company shows a decrease of \$5,160,382. During these months it cost the Illinois Central \$2,712,176 more than in 1911 to handle \$2,704,628 less traffic.

### E. SANCHEZ LOPEZ DEAD

Washington, March 30.--E. Sanchez Lopez, a conspicuous leader in the labor movement of Porto Rico, and special organizer of the cigar-makers' local unions in the island, is dead, after a short illness. The death of Lopez is a distinct loss to the movement in Porto Rico. He was active in all of the affairs of union labor on the island and was the editor of the new labor paper "Justicia". Lopez had always been untiring in his efforts to assist the working people to the limit of his ability, and he is mourned by practically every member of the organizations in the island.

### EXTEND EIGHT-HOUR PROVISION

Washington, March 30.--Sometime ago the house passed what is known as the fortification bill, and it included a eight-hour provision for workmen, which puts this department upon the same footing as regards hours of labor as naval departments. The senate has also passed a fortification bill with the eight-hour provision, not a single objection being raised to it. This means that equipment for all fortifications that are constructed by private concerns must be manufactured under the eight-hour day.

### TEXTILE WORKERS GET RAISE

Fall River, Mass., March 30.--The general secretary of the United Textile Workers of America gives out the statement that 25,000 textile workers have received an advance of 10% in their wages, the scale going into effect on March 25. This advance was secured without strike.

### AFTER INCREASED WAGE

Chicago, March 30.--Fifteen thousand carpenters in this city have voted to go on strike for an increase of five cents per hour on April 1. Negotiations looking toward an amicable adjustment have been practically broken off.

### MINIMUM WAGE FOR LABORERS

Washington, March 30.--The house District of Columbia committee has recommended for passage a minimum wage for laborers, employed by the government in the District, of \$2 per day. This measure has no opposition of any consequence and will in all probability pass.